

Lehi Miniature Parade

By Kent Davis

When I moved to Lehi in 1960, the Lehi Parade was strictly a miniature parade supported by the LDS wards and by a few Lehi businesses. Each ward would enter about three floats from the Primary, Sunday School and Mutual organizations. A few businesses like Tom Powers Clothing, Broadbents, Lehi Drug, Hutches, State Bank of Lehi, Lehi Literary Clubs, Lion and Chamber of Commerce organizations would also usually sponsor floats in the parade.

Many hours were spent using crepe paper, strips 2 inches wide that were curled individually and pasted row by row on structures built by craftsmen. They were unique and done in great detail. They were pulled in the parade by eight to ten young men along the route. No motorized vehicles were ever used. These floats were later rented to other cities for their miniature parades and it helped cut the costs for the ward or club.

In about 1967, the Coordinating Council was organized to form and help civic activities in the City. Virgil Peterson was appointed chairman and I was appointed the City Council representative. Pauline Smuin and Ila Fowler were committee personnel. I was asked to be chairman of the parade. I served as chairman for seventeen years and saw many changes during that time.

In the late 60's, Dean Worlton, the stake President at the time, felt it was too expensive for the Wards to enter any floats in the celebration. This eliminated 27 floats from the parade, putting the future of the parade in question.

Our committee vigorously contacted the businesses and civic groups in Lehi, asking their help to be able to maintain the traditional parade and we received great support for them by adding an addition of about fifteen more entries.

We felt it necessary to add more floats from Lehi and marching bands from other cities in the area.

At this point, we found that some businesses preferred to sponsor a marching band or other types of marching units. The floats that were added were of a larger type such as Miss Lehi's, American Fork, Provo, etc. Banks like State Bank of Lehi and Bank of American Fork also added large floats to the parade.

After a year or two without the Church's involvement, they decided to allow each ward to put in one float. Since there were nine wards in the stake, the addition of nine floats added great vitality to the parade. We appreciated their input.

We continued on through the years in that way until I resigned.

Note: Kent Davis ran the parade from his Dental Office. Miki Black, his receptionist and office manager, took the information over the phone and helped Kent in his endeavors. The parade has been a historical time that all citizens of Lehi has looked forward to. The success from the parade today is through the leadership and direction of this man and his committee's efforts. Kent was a Lehi City Councilmember, LDS Church Leader and Lehi Businessman. He helped shape the community of Lehi.

Kent Davis and his wife Lois were chosen Grand Marshals of the parade in 1995.